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News Release

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Fernald Silos 1 and 2 Treatment Reaches Halfway Mark

CINCINNATI – Fluor Fernald, the contractor responsible for cleaning up the 1,050-acre former uranium production plant for the Department of Energy (DOE), reached the mid-way point in removing the highest profile radioactive materials associated with the environmental cleanup. At 3:30 p.m. today the 1,790th canister of K-65 residues blended with concrete and flyash was produced in an on-site treatment facility. Plant operators anticipate less than 4,000 canisters will be needed to treat the 8,900 cubic yards of radium bearing residues once held in two earthen-bermed concrete silos. The residues have been a concern of plant neighbors for over two decades.

“Originally we were looking at 7,000 containers of treated K-65 residues to complete the project for the cleanup of the K-65 Silos. We were able to draw from the world-class engineering expertise of Fluor Corporation, Jacobs Engineering Group, Duratek and NFS and field support from Wise Services to improve system operations. But ultimately it is the workers represented by the Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council and plant supervisors who are increasing container waste loading through their experience and expertise behind the controls,” said Fluor Fernald Closure Project Director Con Murphy. “That means over \$27 million saved in materials, transportation and storage costs alone.”

Fluor Fernald began operating the Silos 1&2 Treatment Facility in May. At the time it was being built, the treatment facility was the largest ongoing construction project in Cincinnati. In the treatment facility, approximately 4,300 pounds of residues are blended with flyash and cement to create a 15,000-pound batch. The mixture is then gravity fed into canisters in a fill room beneath the mixers. Laser-guided equipment positions each 4,000-pound, ½-inch thick steel canister and rivets a lid to the top of the canister once it is filled with the cement grout-residue mixture. Canisters are then shipped two at a time on specially designed flatbed trucks to Waste Control Specialists (WCS) in Texas for storage.

Silos 1 & 2 Treatment Facility Operators process waste 24-hours a day, seven days a week. On a typical day, 20–30 canisters of waste are produced through three treatment lines. Workers carefully monitor the residue-grout blending and loading operations through a shielded control room. The process is automated, but operators serve as the final quality control check from the moment the waste is pumped into the mixing tanks until the canisters are secured for transport.

Treatment and shipping operations are expected to be complete in late February to early March 2006 at which time the Treatment Facility and support structures will be turned over for demolition. Once the building debris has been shipped off-site, environmental technicians will



certify the area beneath and around the Silos project meets established soil cleanup levels. Today, 70 percent of the entire site has been certified clean by Fluor Fernald environmental restoration technicians with oversight from Ohio and US EPA's.

Fluor Fernald expects to complete the cleanup, soil certification and site restoration by summer 2006, well ahead of the target completion date for the project. The DOE Office of Legacy Management will be responsible for the long-term care of the site once cleanup is complete.

For electronic images of the Fernald Silos Project go to: [Fernald Silos 1 and 2 Waste Treatment](#)

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